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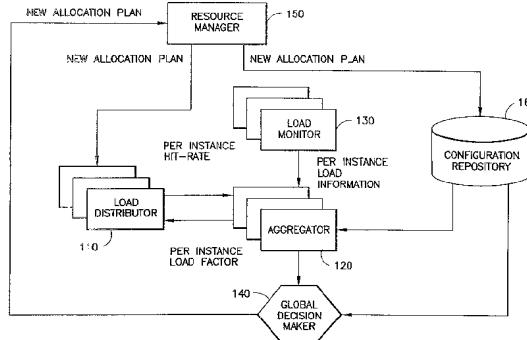
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MANAGING SERVER RESOURCES FOR HOSTED APPLICATIONS



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(57) Abstract: In an ASP server farm, requests to use an application are directed to a particular executing instance of the application (or an appropriate component thereof) that is identified as being the least loaded of the available such instances of the application or its component. The number of such instances is dynamically increased or decreased in response to the number of requests for the application or components thereof. Requests may be directed (in accordance with the first aspect) or the instances adjusted (in accordance with a second aspect) on a per client-basis, in which instances of the application and/or components thereof are reserved for the use of a user or a particular group of users. Operation in this manner facilitates compliance with service agreements with respective users or groups of users. A record is maintained of the resources currently allocated and resources currently consumed for each combination of instance and user, in terms of load factors placed on the instances by requests serviced by those instances of the application or its components. The above arrangement permits a service agreement with a user to be structured in terms of an estimated range of requests for an application, with charges levied for servicing request rates within one or more different bands within this estimated range. Penalty rates are charged (in favour of the user) when requests are not serviced.



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## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, IBM-TDB

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 905 621 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 31 March 1999 (1999-03-31) column 1, line 38 -column 3, line 11 column 4, line 51 - line 57 column 6, line 37 - line 52 ----- -/-	1, 14, 15

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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